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Guide, issued May 24, 2007

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F B I

Date: 4/5/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR

FROM NEWARK (157-)

POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE, BRIDGETON, NEW JERSEY, APRIL
FIVE-SIX, NINETEEN SIXTY-EIGHT, RACIAL MATTERS.

CHIEF FRED SEMPLE, BRIDGETON, NEW JERSEY, POLICE
DEPARTMENT, ADVISED TODAY THAT INFORMATION DEVELOPED THROUGH
INFORMANTS AND SOURCES OF HIS DEPARTMENT CONCERNING LOCAL
NEGRO RESENTMENT OF THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING
REVEALS THAT THE MOOD OF THE NEGRO COMMUNITY IS SUCH THAT A
STRONG POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS WILL
OCCUR AND SUCH ACTION CAN BE TRIGGERED BY ANY NORMAL POLICE
ACTIVITY. HE HAS HIS MEN WORKING DOUBLE SHIFTS AND A MAJORITY
OF HIS DEPARTMENT WILL BE ON DUTY DURING THE NIGHTS OF APRIL
FIFTH AND SIXTH, NINETEEN SIXTY-EIGHT.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES ADVISED. LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM
FOLLOWS. BUREAU AND INTERESTED AGENCIES WILL BE KEPT ADVISED
OF PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS.

TGB/meg
SEARCHED
SERIALIZED

INDEXED
FILED

(1)

OPEN OR REOPEN CASE 157
ORIGIN 11
SUPV. *an*

DATE 4-5-68
SECT. 5-2

Approved: *W*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

12 40

P M

Per

an

BLUE

WASHINGTON--02--

6:15 PM URGENT 04/07/68 JPK

TO DIRECTOR (PLAINTEXT)

(ATTN: DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION)

FROM NEWARK

RACIAL DISTURBANCE, BRIDGETON, NJ. FOUR SEVEN SIXTYEIGHT.

CHIEF FRED SEMPLE, BRIDGETON, NJPD, ADVISED AT FOUR THIRTY PM, ON FOUR SEVEN SIXTYEIGHT THAT FOLLOWING AN ORDERLY AND PEACEFUL MEMORIAL MARCH IN MEMORY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR, HELD IN BRIDGETON FROM TWO PM TO TWO FORTYFIVE PM, A ROVING BAND OF APPROXIMATELY TWO HUNDRED NEGRO MALES RANGING IN AGE FROM SIXTEEN TO THIRTY SMASHED SIX WINDOWS IN BUISNESS ESTABLISHMENTS LOCATED IN THE NEGRO SECTION OF TOWN, COMMENCING AT APPROXIMATELY THREE FIFTEEN PM THIS DATE.

HE STATED THAT WITHIN AN HOURS TIME OFFICES OF THE BRIDGETON, NJPD, ASSISTED BY MEMBERS OF THE BRIDGETON STATION OF THE NJSP HAD SUCCESSFULLY BROKEN UP THE BAND INTO SMALL ISOLATED GROUPS. HE SAID NO LOOTING TOOK PLACE AND ONLY THREE ARRESTS MADE; ONE ADULT FOR CARRYING A CONCEALED WEAPON AND TWO JUVENILES ONE ON A MOTOR VEHICLE VIOLATION AND THE OTHER FOR ATTEMPTING TO STEAL AN AUTOMOBILE.

END PAGE ONE.....

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

SEARCH 4/7/68
6:15 P.M. JPK

157-2494-2

Byler JMB
S 2

R

NK PAGE TWO

CHIEF SEMPLE HAS ALERTED THE MILLVILLE AND VINELAND POLICE DEPARTMENTS IN ADJOINING COMMUNITIES FOR POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE IN VIEW OF POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE TROUBLE WHEN DARKNESS SETS IN.

-----ADMINISTRATIVE-----

RENKTEL FOUR SIX AND FOUR SEVEN UNDER CAPTION "POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE BRIDGETON, NJ. FOUR FIVE - FOUR SIX SIXTYEIGHT."

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES ADVISED. BUREAU AND INTERESTED AGENCIES WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF ANY ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENTS.

LHM FOLLOWS.

END

WASHEXR

FBI WASH DC

TAP FTB FBI WASH DC

BLUE

WASHINGTON --01--

URGENT 4/7/68 EJC 2:17 AM

TO DIRECTOR /PLAIN TEXT/

ATTENTION DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

FROM NEWARK

POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE, BRIDGETOWN, NJ, APRIL FIVE - SIX
SIXTY EIGHT RM

CHIEF FRED SEMPLE BRIDGETON NJPD ADVISED TWELVE THIRTY-FIVE
AM APRIL SEVEN THAT NO INSTANCES OF RACIAL NATURE OCCURED
DURING EVENING HOURS OF APRIL SIX.

ADMINISTRATIVE: RE NK TEL APRIL SIX. APPROPRIATE
AGENCIES ADVISED. LHM FOLLOWS.

END

WA MSE FBI WASHDDC

Joe J. Ryan, ME 6p, NK advice 2 AM 4/7/68

AUSA Steer advised 4¹⁵ PM 4/7

157-2494-3

Cutler 1983

2
2:17 AM EJC

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

dictATED
APPROVED

HP from Rustle
P
P

BLUE

WASHINGTON

--02--

2-33 AM AM

RCM

URGENT

4-6-68

TO DIRECTOR (ATTENTION DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION) (PLAINTEXT)
FROM NEWARK

POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE BRIDGETON, NJ, APRIL FIVE - SIX
SIXTYEIGHT. RM.

CHIEF FRED SEMPLE, BRIDGETON, NJPD, ADVISED AT TWELVE-THIRTY AM,
APRIL SIX, SIXTYEIGHT, THAT THE ONLY INCIDENTS OF A RACIAL NATURE
OCCURRING IN BRIDGETON DURING EVENING HOURS OF APRIL FIVE WERE
BREAKING OF TWO PLATE GLASS WINDOWS IN BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS LOCATED
IN NEGRO SECTION OF TOWN BY NEGRO YOUNGSTERS THROWING STONES.
SEMPLER STATED YOUNGSTERS HAD FLED BY TIME POLICE ARRIVED ON SCENE
AND THEIR IDENTITIES ARE UNKNOWN.

ADMINISTRATIVE-

RE NK TEL APRIL FIVE, SIXTYEIGHT. APPROPRIATE AGENCIES ADVISED.
LHM FOLLOWS. BUREAU AND INTERESTED AGENCIES WILL BE ADVISED WHETHER
OR NOT FURTHER ACTIVITY OCCURS.

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED *CR*

END...

HFL

FBI WASH DC

SABERNARD MULLAKH
PL 9-2379
advised
131 pm

Dictated TGB
Approved WCM

AUSA Stier advised 4/7
9:40

157-2494-4
Buller 1000
2
2:33 AM

RCM

WASHINGTON --01--

BLUE

URGENT 4/8/68 EJC 2:38 AM

TO DIRECTOR (PLAIN TEXT)

ATTENTION DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

FROM NEWARK

POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE, BRIDGETOWN, NJ, APRIL FIVE -SEVEN
SIXTY EIGHT RM

CHIEF RED SEMPLE BRIDGETON PD ADVISED AT TWELVE ZERO FIVE AM
FOUR EIGHT SIXTY EIGHT THAT NO RACIAL OUTBREAKS OCCURED DURING THE
EVENING OF FOUR SEVEN SIXTY EIGHT; HOWEVER PD WAS HARASSED WITH
A NUMBER OF FALSE FIRE ALARMS AND HIT AND RUN TACTICS BY
NEGRO TEENAGERS IN BREAKING PLATE GLASS WINDOWS IN SEVERAL
BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS. HE STATED THAT ONE GRASS FIRE OF
NO SIGNIFICANCE STARTED WITH A TOSSED MOLOTOV COCKTAIL AND
ONE OCCASSION POLICE INTERCEPTED A GROUP OF TWENTY TO THIRTY
NEGRO TEENAGERS HEADING TOWARD WHITE BUSINESS SECTION OF TOWN AND
RECOVERED TWO MOLOTOV COCKTAILS WHICH WERE DROPPED AS GROUP FLED.
HE SAID THAT DURING COURSE OF THE EVENING TWO NEGRO JUVENILES AND
ONE NEGRO TEENAGER ARRESTED AS DISORDRLY AND ANOTHER NEGRO
TEENAGER FOR ATTEMPTED ASSAULT ON POLICE OFFICER.

ADMINISTRATIVE: RE NK TEL FOUR SEVEN LAST. APPROPRIATE
AGENCIES ADVISED. LHM FOLLOWS.

END

WAS MSE FBI WASH DC

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

Robert Dunn MGP advised
2:45 AM 4/8/68/57-2494-5
Buttle Jrs

dictated IGB ✓

2:38 AM EJC 2



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Newark, New Jersey

April 5, 1968

**POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE
BRIDGETON, NEW JERSEY
APRIL 5-6, 1968
RACIAL MATTERS**

Chief Fred Semple, Bridgeton, New Jersey, Police Department, advised on April 5, 1968, that information developed through informants and sources of his department, concerning local Negro resentment over the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, reveals that the mood of the Negro community is such that a strong possibility exists that violent demonstrations will occur and such action can be triggered by any normal police activity. He said that his men are working double shifts and a majority of his department will be on duty during the evening hours of April 5 and 6, 1968.

The United States Attorney, Newark, 108th Military Intelligence Group, Newark, and Secret Service, Newark, were advised of the above.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED 10 FILED _____

1*

157-2494-6
Bulldog 25003
Bridgeton
2

F B I

Date: **4/5/68**Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **AIRTEL** _____
(Priority)

To: Director, FBI

ATTENTION:

From: SAC, **NEWARK (157-**☐ CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION☒ GENERAL INVEST. DIV.☒ DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIV.Subject: **POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE
BRIDGETON, N. J.
4/5-6/68**

☐ CR ☐ EL ☐ VRA-65 ☐ CRA-64
☐ PA ☐ PE ☐ PF
☐ BM ☐ BM-Threats ☒ Racial Matters
☐ Klan ☐ Organization

Summary of Complaint:

Enclosed are eleven (11) copies of a LHM, dated and captioned as above. Three (3) copies of the LHM have been furnished to the USA, Newark, two (2) copies to 108th MI Gp, Newark, and one (1) copy each to NISQ, NYC, and Philadelphia, OSI, NYC, and Secret Service, Newark.

Chief FRED SEMPLE was contacted by SA THOMAS G. BUTTLE.

Bureau and interested agencies will be kept advised of pertinent developments.

1-Bureau (Encls. 11) (RM)

4-Newark

(1-157-1611)

(1-157-1840)

TGB/mje

ACTION: UACB:

☐ No further action being taken and☒ LHM enclosed ☒ Copy furnished to USA, **NEWARK**☐ LHM being submitted☐ Report being submitted☐ Preliminary investigation instituted☐ Limited investigation instituted

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____

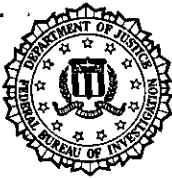
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SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____

SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Newark, New Jersey

April 8, 1968

POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE,
BRIDGETON, NEW JERSEY,
APRIL 5-6, 1968
RACIAL MATTERS

Reference is made to memorandum dated April 5, 1968 at Newark, New Jersey under above caption.

Chief Fred Semple, Bridgeton, New Jersey, Police Department, advised at 12:30am on April 6, 1968 that the only incident of a racial nature occurring in Bridgeton during the evening hours of April 5, 1968 were the breaking of plate glass windows in Galle's Gulf Service Station, South Pearl and Grove Streets, and Tony and Doug's Army and Navy Store, Broad and Pearl Streets, by Negro youngsters throwing stones. He commented that by the time police arrived on the scene the youngsters had fled and their identities are not known.

Chief Semple advised at 12:35am on April 7, 1968 that no incidents of a racial nature occurred in Bridgeton during the evening hours of April 6, 1968.

United States Attorney, Newark, New Jersey, 108th Military Intelligence Group and Secret Service, Newark have been advised of the above information.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

- 11 - Bureau
- 3 - USA, NK
- 2 - 108th MI Gp, NK
- 1 - NISO, NY
- 1 - NISO, PH
- 1 - OSI, NY
- 1 - Secret Service, NK
- 2 - Newark (157-2494)

TGB:mam
(23)

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

1*

157-2494-8
Butler 2/23
A 2

F B I

Date: **4/8/68**Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **AIRTEL** _____
(Priority)

To: Director, FBI

ATTENTION:

From: SAC, **NEWARK (157-2494)**☐ CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION

GENERAL INVEST. DIV.

Subject: **POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE,
BRIDGETON, NJ, 4/5-6/68**☒ DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIV.☐ CR ☐ EL ☐ VRA-65 ☐ CRA-64☐ PA ☐ PE ☐ PF☐ BM ☐ BM-Threats ☒ Racial Matters☐ Klan ☐ Organization

Summary of Complaint:

Re NK tel and airtel to Bu, 4/5/68.
NK tels, 4/6 and 7/68.Enclosed are 11 copies of an LHM dated and captioned
as above.Three copies of this LHM have been furnished to USA,
NK, NJ, two copies to 108th MI Gp, NK, and one copy each to
NISO, NY and Philadelphia, OSI, NY and Secret Service, NK.

Chief FRED SEMPLE was contacted by SA THOMAS G. BUTTLE.

1 - Bureau (enc. 11) (RM)

3 - Newark

(1 - 157-1611)

(1 - 157-1840)

TGB:mam

(4)

ACTION: UACB:

☒ No further action being taken and☒ LHM enclosed ☒ Copy furnished to USA **NEWARK**☐ LHM being submitted☐ Report being submitted☐ Preliminary investigation instituted☐ Limited investigation instituted

SERIALIZED

FILED

157-2494-9
Buttle 12/15Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Newark, New Jersey

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

April 3, 1968

RACIAL DISTURBANCE,
BRIDGETON, NEW JERSEY,
APRIL 7, 1968
RACIAL MATTERS

Chief Fred Semple, Bridgeton, New Jersey, Police Department, advised on April 7, 1968 that following an orderly and peaceful march and memorial service for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which was held in Bridgeton from 2:00-2:45pm on April 7, 1968, approximately 200 Negro males ranging in ages from 16 to 30, who were in attendance at the services, returned on foot to the center of town and milled about on South Pearl Street chanting "kill" "kill" in an apparent attempt to provoke an incident with the local police. He stated that at about 3:15pm as local police were attempting to move the youths along, they commenced throwing stones at windows and broke six plate glass windows in the following business establishments:

Good Will Industries Store, South Pearl and
Warren Streets;

Fisher Brothers Market, 73 South Pearl Street;

Sherby's Fairlawn Market, 83 South Pearl Street;

Bridgeton Liquor Store, 164 South Pearl Street.

11 - Bureau
3 - USA, NK
2 - 108th MI Gp, NK
1 - NISO, NY
1 - NISO, PH
1 - OSI, NY
1 - Secret Service, NK
3 - Newark (157-2494)
TGB:mam
(23)

INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

157-2494-10
Butler
2

RACIAL DISTURBANCE,
BRIDGETON, NEW JERSEY,
APRIL 7, 1968

Chief Semple said that no looting took place and within an hour's time members of his department, assisted by members of the Bridgeton Station of the New Jersey State Police, had successfully broken up this band of Negroes into small isolated groups. He added that during the course of this trouble Henry Curtis Scott, 403 Park Avenue, Vineland, New Jersey, a Negro, age 20, was arrested on a charge of Carrying Concealed Deadly Weapon and Ronald Bowman, 75 Mill Street, Bridgeton, a Negro, age 16, was arrested on a charge of Attempted Larceny of Auto. Chief Semple added that he had alerted the Millville and Vineland, New Jersey Police Departments in adjacent communities for possible assistance in view of the possibility of further trouble when darkness set in.

Chief Semple advised at 12:05am on April 8, 1968 that no racial outbreak occurred in Bridgeton during the evening hours of April 7, 1968. He stated that his department was harrassed, however, by a number of false fire alarms and hit and run tactics by Negro teenagers breaking plate glass windows in the Amoco Service Station, South Pearl and Warren Streets and Sam's Friendly Service, 151 South Avenue, an automobile agency.

Chief Semple commented that one grass fire of no significance was started with a tossed molitav cocktail and on one occasion at about 8:45pm officers intercepted a group of 20 to 30 Negro teenagers at South Avenue and Broad Street headed in the direction of Center City and recovered two molitav cocktails which were dropped as the group fled. He stated that both molitav cocktails were 12 ounce beer bottles filled with gasoline.

Chief Semple added that during the course of the evening two Negro juveniles and an 18 year old Negro youth were arrested on disorderly charges as well as ROBERT BURKS, JR., 1313 Lake Shore Avenue, Bridgeton, a Negro, age 19, on a charge of attempted assault on police officer in that he attempted to wrest a shotgun from Patrolman L. Hawkins at South Pearl and Broad Streets.

RACIAL DISTURBANCE,
BRIDGETON, NEW JERSEY,
APRIL 7, 1968

United States Attorney, Newark, New Jersey,
108th Military Intelligence Group and Secret Service, Newark,
have been advised of the above.

This document contains neither recommendations
nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI
and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not
to be distributed outside your agency.

F B I

Date: 4/8/63

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

To: Director, FBI

ATTENTION:

From: SAC, NEWARK (157-2494)☐ CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION

GENERAL INVEST. DIV.

☒ DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIV.Subject: **POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE,**
BRIDGETON, NJ, 4/5-6/63

☐ CR ☐ EL ☐ VRA-65 ☐ CRA-64
☐ PA ☐ PE ☐ PF
☐ BM ☐ BM-Threats ☒ Racial Matters
☐ Klan ☐ Organization

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Chief FRED SEMPLE was contacted by SA THOMAS G. BUTTLE.

1 - Bureau (enc. 11) (RM)

3 - Newark

(1 - 157-1611)

(1 - 157-1840)

TGB:mam

(4)

ACTION: UACB:

☒ No further action being taken and☒ LHM enclosed ☒ Copy furnished to USA NEWARK☐ LHM being submitted☐ Report being submitted☐ Preliminary investigation instituted☐ Limited investigation instituted

SERIALIZED

FILED

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M. Per _____
 Special Agent in Charge

RECORD OF INFORMATION FURNISHED OTHER AGENCIES

Orally _____ date _____ By Telephone 4/6/68 date _____ Written Communication _____ date _____

Information concerning: *Breaking plate glass windows Bridgeton
by teenage Negroes throwing rocks*

Information furnished from File, Serial, and Page Number:

157-2494-8

Information furnished was obtained:

- ☐ during course of Bureau investigation
- ☐ from informants
- ☒ from complainants or other sources

Information furnished to:

- SA Joseph Ryan 108th MI Bp., Newark

Number of items disseminated: 2

Remarks:

DeButtle

Special Agent

157-2494-12

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
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FBI - NEWARK	

80-683/B